

Resource Numbers

- AG's Office Consumer Protection
617-727-8400
- Sec. of State's Consumer Info
1-888-283-3757
- Better Business Bureau
508-652-4800
- Elder Abuse Hotline– 24 hour
1-800-922-2275
- Coastline Elderly Services
508-999-6400
- Old Colony Elder Services
508-584-1561
508-587-0280 TTY
- South Shore Elder Services, Inc.
1-781-848-3910
- Nat. Fraud Information Center
1-800-876-7060



TIMOTHY J. CRUZ
Plymouth County District Attorney



Safety & Awareness

The Senior Protection Unit

The Plymouth County
District Attorney's Office

32 Belmont Street
Brockton, MA 02301

508-584-8120

www.mass.gov/daplymouth



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The Plymouth County
District Attorney's Office



Safety & Awareness



The Senior Protection Unit



Timothy J. Cruz
District Attorney

A Message from the District Attorney:



As your District Attorney, I am committed to aggressively prosecuting criminals who victimize elders in our community.

The goal of the Senior Protection Unit in my office is to bring the elements of law enforcement, community outreach, social services and concerned citizens together in the battle against elder crime.

All citizens have the right of protection from emotional, financial and physical abuse. Our seniors have worked hard and deserve to enjoy their retirement years without the fear of abuse.

If you suspect any kind of elder abuse, I urge you to call the District Attorney's Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim J. Cruz".

Timothy J. Cruz
District Attorney

Personal Safety

Heed your own advice. Never talk, or open your door to a stranger. You should never give out any personal information about yourself or your family to anyone, or any business that you are not familiar with.

A door with a peephole. Is a safe way to see who is at your door. It is important to know who is on the other side of your door prior to it being opened. Once it is opened you could be at risk.

Fraudulent telephone solicitations. Beware of any postcard or voice message promising cash and prizes. Most require you to call an "800" or "900" number. In order to collect the reward, the caller is required to leave their credit card number to "verify their identity". It is the perfect opportunity for your credit card number to be stolen, as well as your identity! Beware, you could also be charged for the call on your next phone bill.

Too good to be true. If something sounds too good to be true it probably is. Take the time to stop and check out the validity of an offer prior to accepting it. This might save you some time and money.

Charities. Do not make a donation to an unknown charity. Ask for their telephone number so you can call them back. If a caller is uncooperative in answering your questions, simply hang up the phone.

Home Safety

Notify the police if you are going away from your home for an extended period of time.

Install timers that will turn on and off some inside and outside lights, and your television at irregular intervals.

Ask a neighbor to check on your property while you are away. You may even want to ask a neighbor to park their car in your driveway.

Never leave messages on your door for anyone. This is a clear indicator that you are not home.

Never allow newspapers, trash or the mail to pile up. Be sure to notify your newspaper carrier and The Post Office to hold your delivery until you return.

REPORT! Report suspicious persons or offers promptly to your local police.

While on the Web

Be sure to check out AARP's website it is full of interesting facts and tips!



Safety & Awareness